This is the reference that we made to the Government Advocate. There, the question has been stated clearly: "The Chairmen of Ernakulam and Mattancheri Municipalities are now levying professional tax on those who reside in these municipalities but exercise their profession in British Cochin. Since these persons pay professional tax to the British Cochin Municipality, it is argued that they are exempt under the proviso to Explanation II to section 49 of the Municipal Regulation from paying the tax to Ernakulam and Mattancheri Municipalities. The Government Advocate is requested to report whether under existing provisions of the Regulation, a Municipality can collect the tax in such cases." That is the point at issue.

Work and wages—legislation to regulate.

218. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—With reference to Question No. 1, dated 31st July 1933, regarding the longest hours of work and smallest wages, will the Government be pleased to state what they have done to realise their remark 'some Regulations have to be passed' during the interval?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Government have not considered the question further, pending receipt of the report on the Economic and Industrial Survey.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Was not, Sir, a definite undertaking given on the occasion of the question under reference that the matter would be looked into independent of the Economic Survey.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I do not find any definite undertaking. I referred to that proceedings, and so far as I can see, there is no definite undertaking that they will look into the question independent of the Economic and Industrial Survey.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—With reference to Government answer to Question No. 15, the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam was asking, "Do the Government propose to continue the system of 12 hours till they get the report of the Economic Survey?" The answer first given was, "The Government have not considered that question." Then another question arose, "Will it be considered", the reply was, 'it can be considered.' Again the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam put another question "Before the report of the Economic Survey report is received will it be considered?" The answer is, "Suggestions will be noted."

President.—What has that question to do with this question?

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—It is the same subject-matter. With reference to that answer, may I know whether the Government have not given a definite undertaking that the matter will be

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considered independent of the Economic Survey? I refer to Question No. 15 answered on the 31st of July 1933.

President.—The Government have replied that there was no definite undertaking. So you cannot put that question.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Am I to take it that it is the ruling of the President that no assurance was given by the Government?

President.—There is no question on which a ruling is required. We are now on a different question altogether.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—It is the ruling of the Chair that I should not put supplementary questions any more?

President.—You can put supplementary questions which are relevant.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know whether the Government did not say that the suggestions will be looked into independent of the Economic Survey?

President.—That has been answered.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—So far as I can see, there is no definite assurance that it will be considered independent of the Economic Survey. The Government only said that the suggestion will be noted.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Does the Survey include this item also?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—It will be one of the items. They are gathering materials regarding the kind of industries, the time of work and wages which they are earning. A consideration without the necessary materials will be labour lost.

219. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of months that have passed since the Government's remark in the previous question?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—About twelve months.

220. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to state the reason why they took no action in pursuance of their undertaking in Question No. 218?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Vide answer to Question No. 218.

221. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to state what action they intend to take in furtherence of their remark in Question No. 218 and when?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—The action which Government may take depends on the report of the Economic Survey.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Am I to take it that no further consideration can be given to it, except when they receive the Survey report?

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